

15. ~~A pump comprising:~~

a pump assembly including a casing;

a diffuser core disposed in said casing;

a drive shaft extending through said diffuser core;

a rotary impeller fastened to an end of said drive shaft; and

a bearing separably fastened within said casing, said bearing supporting said drive shaft, said bearing being readily removable from an upstream section of said casing.

16. The pump as recited in claim 15, wherein an only active element removed to allow removal of said bearing is said impeller.

17. The pump as recited in claim 15, wherein said bearing is further separably fastenable within said diffuser core.

18. The pump as recited in claim 15, further comprising a bearing cartridge for housing said bearing.

19. The pump as recited in claim 18, wherein said bearing cartridge includes an engagement structure integral therein and said diffuser core includes a reciprocal engagement structure thereon for receiving the engagement structure of said bearing cartridge.

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20. An apparatus for facilitating servicing of a bearing in an upstream end of a pump incorporating a pump assembly including a casing, a diffuser core disposed in the casing, a drive shaft extending through the diffuser core, and a rotary impeller fastened to an end of the drive shaft, the apparatus comprising a bearing separably fastened within the casing, said bearing supporting the drive shaft, the bearing being readily removable from an upstream end of the casing.

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21. The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein an only active element removed to allow removal of said bearing is the impeller.

22. The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein said bearing is further separably fastenable within the diffuser core.

23. The pump as recited in claim 20, further comprising a bearing cartridge for housing said bearing.

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24. The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein said bearing cartridge includes an engagement structure integral therein and said diffuser core includes a reciprocal engagement structure thereon for receiving the engagement structure of said bearing cartridge.

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